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Identical letters dated 2 March 2017 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I should like to convey to you the following information:

The "international coalition" led by the United States has continued to carry out its dangerous attacks against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Syrian Arab Republic since it began its operations on 23 September 2014. Those attacks have targeted bridges, dams and lakes along the Euphrates River, including the Euphrates Dam, the Baath Dam, the Tishrin Dam and their reservoirs, as well as irrigation and power generation facilities. To illustrate the gravity of the risk posed by the air strikes of the "international coalition" on the Euphrates Dam, we wish to point out that the reservoir of the Euphrates Dam is 80 kilometres long and has a storage capacity of 14.16 billion cubic metres; and that the reservoir of the Tishrin Dam covers an area of 166 square kilometres and has a storage capacity of 1.883 billion cubic metres. The total destruction of these dams that are being targeted by the air strikes will wash away and flood cities, towns and villages, endangering the lives of hundreds of thousands of people living in those areas. In addition, damaging those dams will cut off the only source of irrigation and drinking water for the people living in Aleppo, Raqqah and Dayr al-Zawr governorates within the Euphrates basin, put a complete halt to agricultural projects and cripple Syria's power grid, which has already been damaged by the attacks and crimes carried out by armed terrorist groups.

The systematic sabotage of infrastructure perpetrated by the "international coalition" has had a devastating impact and serves to support terrorist groups such as Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and Al-Qaida in spreading chaos and devastation, which will not be limited to the Syrian Arab Republic, but will extend to and cause similar damage in Iraq and affect residents along the Euphrates River in Iraq. The countries of the "international coalition" will bear full responsibility for that damage, as their actions are being carried out outside the framework of international legality, without the approval of the Security Council and the Syrian Government, and in flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations and international law.

The Syrian Arab Republic calls on the Security Council to fulfil its responsibility to maintain international peace and security, to take urgent action to rid the area of this looming threat, and to quickly put an end to the attacks of the "international coalition" against the Syrian Arab Republic which have caused the

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death of hundreds of innocent civilians and dozens of Syrian Arab Army personnel fighting off the terrorist group ISIL. The attacks have also caused heavy material losses and destruction to economic, service and oil and gas infrastructure and facilities, and to public and private property in the Syrian Arab Republic.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic stresses once again that the operation being carried out by the "international coalition" is in stark contradiction to the concern proclaimed by the member countries of that coalition for the welfare and safety of the Syrian people. It undermines the capabilities and achievements of the Syrian people, increases their suffering and hampers the reconstruction effort. The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic calls on the Security Council and the Secretary-General to compel the United States of America and the members of the "international coalition" to stop targeting the Euphrates Dam, the Tishrin Dam and the surrounding areas and other infrastructure, in order to forestall the looming catastrophe.

The Syrian Arab Republic affirms that the only way to seriously tackle terrorism in the Syrian Arab Republic and the area is through prior coordination and full cooperation with the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic and support for its fight against terrorism. In this regard, we should like to recall that the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic has repeatedly declared its willingness to coordinate with other States to combat the terrorism carried out by terrorist groups such as ISIL and the Nusrah Front and their associated groups and entities.

I should be grateful if this letter could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mounzer **Mounzer**
Minister Plenipotentiary
Chargé d'affaires a.i.